

London. Post 1/2

Oct. 1913 - Jan. 1914  
(52)

October 24th, 1913

Right Honourable R. L. Borden, M.P., LL.D.,  
Premier of Canada.

My dear Mr. Borden:

Professor de Champ of our Department of French has asked me to write to you on his behalf. He informs me that some friends of his have placed his name before the Government as that of a suitable candidate for the position of Canadian Commissioner at the Exhibition to be held in Lyons next year. Professor de Champ asks me to assure you that his University duties will not conflict with the duties of the new position should he receive the appointment. M. de Champ has the sumner to himself and would be able to represent Canada very well because he lives in the neighborhood of Lyons. He is also a gentleman of high culture, and personally should appeal to his fellow countrymen as a worthy representative of Canada.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.



Ottawa, Ont. October 27th, 1913

My dear Doctor Falconer,-

Your letter of the 24th inst. is before me. I am not sure that a Canadian Commissioner will be appointed for the Exhibition to be held at Lyons next year. All these Exhibitions are under the administration of the Department of Agriculture, ~~and~~ I am sending your letter to Mr. Burrell and I am commending your suggestions to his consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Robert A. Falconer,

President,

University of Toronto,

Toronto, Ont.

*R. Borden*

November 3rd, 1913

A. F. Plouffe, Esq.,

Secretary, Prime Minister's Office,

Ottawa.

Dear Sir:

Many thanks for your letter with regard to the  
appointment of Professor De Charn as a Commissioner to Lyons.  
I will inform Professor De Charn with regard to the matter.

Yours sincerely,

President.



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Ottawa, November 1st, 1913.

Dear Sir :

On the 24th October you wrote to the Prime Minister with respect to the appointment of Prof. de Champ as Canadian Commissioner at the Exhibition to be held in Lyons next year. Mr. Borden left Ottawa yesterday and as he will probably be away for a month at least I am taking the liberty of sending to you a copy of a communication received from Mr. Burrell in reply to your representations.

Yours truly,

*A. B. Brown*  
*Secy*

Dr. R. W. Falconer,

University of Toronto.

Toronto, Ont.

Encl.



141  
COPY.

Ottawa, 30th October 1913.

The Right Honourable R. L. Borden,  
Prime Minister of Canada,  
O t t a w a.

My dear Mr. Borden :

I have your letter of the 27th inst., enclosing a communication from Sir Edmund Osler, covering one from Mr. H. C. Osborne respecting the appointment of Mr. de Champ as Canadian Commissioner for the Exhibition at Lyons; also a similar letter from Dr. Falconer.

In view of the fact that after careful consideration it has been decided not to participate in the International Urban Exhibition at Lyons, I have advised other gentlemen who have written on behalf of Mr. de Champ that it would not be necessary to send a Canadian Commissioner to that Exhibition. Mr. White has before him the suggestions that plans, etc. of the improvements made in Ottawa by the Ottawa Improvement Commission be sent to Lyons, but I presume that it would scarcely necessitate the appointment of a special commissioner.

I return the letters referred to above.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) M. Burrell.

Minister of Agriculture.



## MEMORANDUM

*May 1*

~~I have the honour to~~ bring to your attention the following resolution which was unanimously adopted by the Senate of the University of Toronto at a meeting of that body held on November 14.

" That the Senate of the University of Toronto recommend that the Government of the Dominion of Canada be asked to take steps to supplement their action in giving their support to the International Committee on the establishment of the length of the Metre and the weight of the Kilogramme by confirming by Order in Council or by Legislative Enactment the length of the Metre and the weight of the Kilogramme as determined by the said Committee."

The object the Senate had in view in passing this resolution was to bring to the attention of the Government of Canada the anomaly which exists in regard to the status of the Metric System in Canada.

Some six or seven years ago the Government of Canada gave its adherence to what is known as the Convention of the Metre which is an international organisation maintained by twenty-six nations in all, having its headquarters in a Bureau known as The Palais de Bellevue situated near Sevres, in France.

One of the duties which this organisation was asked to perform by the nations supporting it was to determine and establish the length of the Metre and the weight of the Kilogramme. This work was brought to completion some years ago by the construction of an



International Standard Metre and an International Standard Kilogramme. These standards are now deposited in the Bureau at Sevres, and they are the final standards in the Metric System. Copies of these standards, it may be added, were made to be distributed to the different countries subscribing to the Convention.

All the Governments subscribing to this Convention agreed to accept these international standards as their local standards in the Metric System, and they also agreed to make them so by suitable Legislative Enactment. Of the twenty-six nations subscribing to the Convention all( including Great Britain and the United States ) with the exception of Chili, Uruguay, and Canada, have implemented their agreement by taking effective legislative action.

It is the wish of the Senate of the University of Toronto that such legislative action be now taken by the Government and the Parliament of Canada as will make the International Metre and the International Kilogramme the legal Metric Standards in Canada.

It may be added that the use of the Metric System was legalized in Canada by legislation passed by the Parliament of Canada in 1897.

A handwritten signature in ink, appearing to be "J. M. Smith".



Right Honourable R. L. Borden, M.P., December 17th, 1913  
Prime Minister of Canada,  
Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Borden:

May I bring to your attention the following resolution which was unanimously adopted by the Senate of the University of Toronto at a meeting of that body held on November 14th, 1913:

"That the Senate of the University of Toronto recommend that the Government of the Dominion of Canada be asked to take steps to supplement their action in giving their support of the International Committee on the establishment of the length of the metre and the weight of the kilogramme by confirming by Order-in-Council or by Legislative Enactment the length of the metre and the weight of the kilogramme as determined by the said committee."

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December 17th, 1913

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It is the wish of the Senate of the University of Toronto that such legislative action be now taken by the Government and the Parliament of Canada as will make the International Metre and the International Kilogramme the legal Metric Standards in Canada. It may be added that the use of the Metric System was legalised in Canada by legislation passed by the Parliament of Canada in 1897.

Yours sincerely,

President.

Right Honourable R. L. Borden,  
Premier of Canada, Ottawa.

June 5th, 1914

Dear Mr. Borden:

For the past six years we have been urged by graduates of the University of Toronto in China to endeavour to secure from the Ottawa Government the remission of the \$500 capitation tax which must be paid by Chinese students on entering the Dominion of Canada. The belief of our graduates is that a number of students might be directed to Canada were this tax removed. As you are doubtless aware, the United States, Great Britain, and the European countries have now for some years been receiving large numbers of Chinese students, who after getting their education in this country and returning to China have been the pioneers in introducing Western civilisation and opening up avenues of intercourse in the way of trade and commerce. This class of people is entirely different from the immigration of labour, and to allow them to enter free would not in my judgment influence the legislation dealing with the introduction of coolie labour. It has seemed to us in the University that Canada should receive its share of these able students, not only because we can be of benefit to them, but because the return to Canada itself will be of great advantage.

The United States, I understand, does not impose any such tax, which of course would be resented by highly educated men. Our statute, it is true, provides for the refund of the tax after the immigrant has been a bonafide student for one year, but no self-respecting man will come when the



other civilised countries are open to him.

I took up the question with Sir Wilfred Laurier and Mr. Mackenzie King, and in 1911 it seemed that we were making some progress. Mr. King assured me that Sir Richard Cartwright, in whose department the regulation was administered was in favour of changing the statute. Nothing, however, was done, and owing to your many difficulties I have never taken up the question with you since you assumed office. Our graduates in China are again urging us to get something done, and I wrote to Mr. H. B. Ames on the matter, but have not heard from him. It seems to me therefore best that I should protrude directly, though I know that you are very much engaged with other matters.

According to the Act the following persons are exempt from the payment of the entrance tax:

- (1) Merchants, their wives and minor children;
- (2) The wives and minor children of clergymen;
- (3) Tourists;
- (4) Men of science;
- (5) Duly certified teachers.

It would seem therefore that the request that is made involves very little change and no real change in principle. May I ask you to be good enough when you have some relief from the pressure of your ordinary duties to take this matter into your consideration, and if you can possibly do so to have these students put on the same basis as "men of science and teachers"? With much respect, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.



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June 12th, 1914

Right Honourable R. L. Borden,  
Premier of Canada.

Dear Mr. Borden:

Many thanks for your letter stating that you have sent a copy of my letter with regard to the taxation of Chinese students to the Minister of the Interior and have commended it to his attention. I hope that there will be some good result from your commendation of it.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

